

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06916 190931Z

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5866

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, L, RO, SA, LE

SUBJ: EAL: ROMANIAN OIL REFINERY IN PAKISTAN

1. THE MARCH-JULY 1974 EAL FOR PAKISTAN REQUESTED
INFORMATION ON A NEW KARACHI PETROLEUM REFINERY REPORT-
EDLY TO BE BUILT WITH ROMANIAN HELP.

2. DURING A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION JULY 17 EMBOFFS
INQUIRED ABOUT THE REFINERY FROM TWO ROMANIAN EMBASSY
COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC OFFICERS. THE INFORMATION
RECEIVED WAS THAT THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL SOON BE
BUILDING A SUBSTANTIAL ADDITION TO THE EXISTING GOVERN-
MENT-OWNED REFINERY IN KARACHI. ROMANIAN TECHNICIANS
HAVE JUST ARRIVED THERE TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS AND CON-
STRUCTION SHOULD BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED
IN 1976. WHEREAS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT REFINERY
(THERE IS ALSO A PRIVATELY OWNED ONE IN KARACHI) HAS A
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06916 190931Z

CAPACITY OF 500,000 TONS PER YEAR THE NEW ADDITION WILL

HAVE A CAPACITY OF 2 MILLION TONS PER YEAR.

3. PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING AND BIZARRE DETAIL ELICITED WAS THAT THE REFINERY IS BEING FINANCED UNDER A CREDIT ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT.

4. BESIDES THE MENTIONED REFINERY, THE ROMANIANS ARE HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOP FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SYNTHETIC FIBER PLANT. THE ROMANIANS WERE NOT SURE THIS WOULD BE FINALIZED.

5. TWO DAYS AFTER ABOVE RECEPTION ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR ADDED ANOTHER DETAIL TO REFINERY STORY. ADDRESSING THE LOCAL ROTARY CLUB HE SAID THAT THE ROMANIAN CREDIT ARRANGEMENT WITH PAKISTAN INCLUDED 150 MILLION RUPEES (I.E. \$15 MILLION) FOR EXPANSION OF THE KARACHI REFINERY.

6. COMMENT. ONE OF THIS EMBASSY'S OFFICERS RECALLS THAT SOME YEARS AGO THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA AND ROMANIA CONCLUDED A BARTER AGREEMENT WHEREBY SAUDI ARABIA WOULD SUPPLY A QUANTITY OF OIL IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OIL REFINERY. FOR POLITICAL REASONS THE REFINERY WAS NOT CONSTRUCTED IN SAUDI ARABIA. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO HAVE IT BUILT IN LEBANON. WE WONDER IF THE REFINERY NOW TO GO UP IN KARACHI MIGHT BE SAME ONE ORIGINALLY SLATED FOR SAUDI ARABIA. PERHAPS EMBASSY JIDDA CAN ESTABLISH THIS. BYROADE

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